

● ● ● What is KidStart?

John Howard KidStart connects young people ages 6-18 with carefully screened and trained adult volunteer mentors. Our mentors become a stable, committed, and caring adult in the life of the young person they are matched with.

KidStart is a free service offered in Campbell River, Quadra Island, and the Comox Valley. The program is funded by grants, donations, fundraising, and gaming funds—Province of BC.

For more information, call:

**Campbell River:**  
250-286-0611

**Comox Valley:**  
250-338-7341



### Our Mission

The John Howard Society of North Island is a charitable organization whose mission is to provide programs and support to help children, youth, and families lead safer and healthier lives.



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# JohnHoward KidStart

## Mentoring Program



### *Guide for Families*

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Tel. 250-286-0611  
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[www.jhsni.bc.ca](http://www.jhsni.bc.ca)



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of KidStart?

A KidStart mentor is a supportive role model who will share a friendship with your child and help them experience success. Our goal is to help young people improve their self-confidence and resilience.

### What is my role as a parent/guardian?

We will ask you for information about your child so we can make a good match with a KidStart mentor. The John Howard KidStart coordinator will meet with you to tell you about the program, answer your questions, and ask you to sign permission slips.

### When should I apply?

We encourage you to apply as soon as possible, as KidStart has a waitlist.

*“It’s amazing what a difference it makes having a male role model in my son’s life.”*

- Mom of a 12-year-old boy

### Who sets up the outings?

The volunteer mentor will work out a time that is good for you both. The mentor will pick up and drop off your child.

### What will the mentor and my child do together?

They will spend three or more hours together each week. They might visit a park, play sports, bake, do crafts, or other things that friends do together. We help our mentors look for free or low cost activities that are interesting to both them and your child.



### Will my child be safe with the volunteer mentor?

Yes. Our volunteers are carefully screened, interviewed, and trained by John Howard KidStart staff. Mentors provide four references, a driver’s abstract, two criminal record checks, and a home assessment. KidStart provides ongoing support and supervision to our volunteer mentors.

### Is there a cost?

No, KidStart is free.

### Is KidStart counselling?

No. KidStart is not counselling or social work. Your child spends recreational time with their volunteer mentor—an adult who is not a member of the family. The mentor can be a positive role model and an extra support for your child as they grow up.

### How do you know KidStart works?

From families who answered our survey in 2018-2019:

- 100% said that KidStart is making a positive difference in their child’s life.
- 100% said their child had more self-confidence.

*“I am really grateful that my daughter has her mentor in her life. As a single mom with five kids it’s hard to give each one the undivided time that I would like to. This program is wonderful.”*

- Mom of a 9-year-old girl